

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM This Week With David Brinkley STATION WJLA-TV
ABC Network

DATE January 27, 1985 11:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Fear of Libel Suits

DAVID BRINKLEY: ...The news agencies, printed, broadcast, daily, weekly are catching it from everywhere.

Jack Anderson says in his column, for example, that reporters on small papers are telling him that they have stories proving local corruption of one kind or another but their papers won't print them for fear of libel suits. Because even if these reports are totally accurate a libel trial is still so expensive that smaller papers and broadcast stations can't afford to pay them.

One libel suit could put a small news medium out of business. But there are more of them every day. Just recently, it wasn't a libel suit exactly, but the CIA asked the ABC [sic] that it have its television licenses revoked because of a news report that the CIA disliked.